

MEDIA RELEASE

11 May 2026

Opera Australia presents Young Artists in Concert at Sydney Opera House



Opera Australia is thrilled to present a stunning concert at the Sydney Opera House to farewell the graduating 2025-26 class of Young Artists and introduce the incoming cohort showcasing the talent shaping the future of opera in Australia.

After 18 months of intensive training, performance and artistic development, the inaugural six young artists of Opera Australia’s renewed Young Artist Program, singers Chelsea Burns, Shikara Ringdahl, Elias Wilson and Leon Vitogiannis; répétiteur Jem Herbert and director Claudia Osborne, will take the stage together for the final time together as young artists.

This performance will not only celebrate the Young Artists’ completion of the program but also mark their transition to the next phase of their careers, taking them into the opera world both here and abroad. Excitedly, Chelsea, Jem and Claudia will be relocating overseas for further professional opportunities in Milan, London and Berlin respectively.

Head of Opera Australia’s Young Artist Program, Francis Greep said, “This is a special occasion and a real passing-of-the-torch moment, with our current Young Artists performing alongside the incoming cohort as they are welcomed into the program. It’s a chance to celebrate the artists who are about to embark on the next stage of their careers, while introducing audiences to a new generation of operatic talent beginning their journey with Opera Australia.”

From Darwin to Melbourne, Gladstone to Tamworth, the incoming cohort features seven young artists from around the country. They are director Edwina Strobl, répétiteur Isobel Archer, soprano Lana Kains, mezzo Sidra Nissen, tenor Christopher Whalley, bass-baritone, Daniel Karter and baritone Jake Lyle who audiences will be familiar with from his recent professional debut as The Phantom in Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour’s *The Phantom of the Opera*.

Together, the outgoing and incoming artists will perform a stellar program that includes stunning arias, exquisite duets, thrilling trios, and quintessential quartets and quintets spanning music from Claudio Monteverdi to Gian Carlo Menotti, accompanied at the piano by Jem and Isobel.

Opera Australia’s Young Artist Program is a flagship development pathway within Australia’s opera sector. Generously supported by Principal Patron Maureen Wheeler AO, the program enables the artists to experience advanced training covering vocal and dramatic coaching, language classes, as well as international study with renowned coaches, and professional experience and integration into the company.

2 August | Joan Sutherland Theatre, Sydney Opera House

PATRON-IN-CHIEF
DR HARUHISA HANDA

HERO PARTNER

GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



CREATIVE VICTORIA

Creatives

Directors **Claudia Osborne & Edwina Strobl**

Répétiteurs **Jem Herbert & Isobel Archer**

Cast

Chelsea Burns
Shikara Ringdahl
Elias Wilson
Leon Vitogiannis

Lana Kains
Sidra Nissen
Christopher Whalley
Jake Lyle
Daniel Kramer

Performance information

2 August at 2:00pm

Running time

Approximately 1hr 40 minutes including one interval.

Bookings

Adult tickets \$49
Concession tickets \$39
Student tickets \$35
(fees may apply)

Opera Australia Box Office
(02) 9318 8200

www.opera.org.au

**Joan Sutherland Theatre,
Sydney Opera House**

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